

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-12 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA:CAR:JBURKE/ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212890

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, GY

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR TALBOT OF GOG'S NEW

BAUXITE LEVY

REFERENCE: GEORGETOWN 1721

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN CALLED AMBASSADOR TALBOT TO THE DEPARTMENT THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE LEGISLATION REPORTED IN REFTEL. SHLAUDEMAN SAID WE WERE MOST DISAPPOINTED THAT GOG HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED AS IT HAS IN THE REYNOLDS MATTER AND WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE LEGISLATION AND THE PROBLEMS IT POSED IN DETAIL WITH THE GOG AT AN EARLY DATE. OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS THE PROVISION IN THE BILL UNDER WHICH THE RESIDENT MANAGER AND OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF REYNOLDS (PARA 5 REFTEL) COULD BE HEAVILY FINED OR JAILED. THIS SEEMED TO HOLD OUT THE THREAT OF HARSH RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS. IN OUR JUDGMENT ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD NOT BE PROPER IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. SHLAUDEMAN ALSO NOTED THAT REYNOLDS MIGHT WELL BE RELUCTANT TO SEND ITS OFFICERS TO GEORGETOWN TO NEGOTIATE WITH A THREAT OF THIS KIND HANGING OVER THEIR HEADS.

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2. TALBOT TOOK NOTES AND PROMISED TO REPORT THE DEMARCHE IMMEDIATELY TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID FOREIGN SECRETARY RAMPHAL HAD GONE BACK TO GEORGETOWN AND MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM AS A WHOLE. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: GEORGETOWN
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